

amendment which I don't know if it is in the Journal, but it should be...

SENATOR SMITH: (Inaudible.)

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, "Nothing in Sections 1 to 20 of this act shall be construed to require the State of Nebraska, any agency of the State of Nebraska, or any of the entities which operate under rules and regulations of a state agency, which either employ or contract for the services of social services workers, to employ or contract with only persons certified under Sections 1 to 21 of this act, for the performance of any of the professional activities enumerated in Section 5 of this act." That is to make it very clear that nobody is to be forced to hire a social worker to perform these various functions. Certification is an optional thing. You don't have to have it if you don't want to, and other people can perform the same functions just as long as they don't use the term "social worker" and I think that will take care of a lot of those concerns.

SENATOR SMITH: So there would basically be three classifications here, what we call...really two classifications of a social worker and what would these others call themselves then?

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, there would be a certified master social worker for those with the master's degree, and then just a certified social worker for those with a bachelor's degree.

SENATOR SMITH: And the third classification?

SENATOR WESELY: There is no third classification.

SENATOR SMITH: But those people that are hired right now by groups, particularly I have gotten a lot of letters from like the different regional offices of mental retardation, and we have also had those people that we call them social workers, basically, that work in aging programs.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, they would be called caseworkers or something like that. They can perform all the functions. It doesn't change any of that. When you certify, anybody else can perform the same activities. When you license, only that licensed group can perform those activities. So